

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MFG. 1.72

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EXDIS

SUBJECT: SALT: BRITISH PRESS FOR EARLY NAC CONSULTATION ON FBS

1. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS NOV 28 WITH PEREZ (INR/RSG),
BRITISH OFFICIALS FROM FCO, MOD, AND CABINET OFFICE
STRESSED REPEATEDLY THEIR GROWING APPREHENSION THAT
TIMETABLE FOR SALT II COULD DEVELOP IN WAY WHICH MIGHT
PRECLUDE ADQUATE NAC CONSULTATION ON FBS. FCO ASST
UNDERSECY ROSE IN PARTICULAR EXPRESSED HMG'S CONCERN
THAT US DO UTMOST TO ENSURE THAT NATO ALLIES ARE ABLE
TO PROVIDE TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE INPUT ON ISSUE WHICH
IS VITAL TO EUROPEAN INTERESTS.

2. ROSE HAS BEEN WORRIED FOR SOME TIME ABOUT ENSURING
THAT SALT II SCENARIO INCLUDES THOROUGH AND TIMELY
NAC DISCUSSIONS OF FBS, AND HAS BEEN DILIGENT IN RE-
MINDING US OF IMPORTANCE BRITS ATTACH TO PROBLEM. HE NOW
SEEMS MORE SPECIFICALLY CONCERNED WITH POSSIBILITY THAT
BREZHNEV VISIT TO US COULD REQUIRE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF
SUBSTANTIVE US POSITIONS WITHOUT BENEFIT OF CONSIDERED ALLIED
JUDGEMENTS. HE ASKED THAT WE ALERT WASHINGTON TO UK
CONCERN ON THIS SCORE. XGDS-1. ANNEBERG

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